

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **insert --WHAT IS CLAIMED IS-- before claim 1, and amend claims 1-8 as follows:**

1. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals ~~of the type which consists of~~ comprising:

a switch (VCX) ~~designed~~ arranged to be linked ~~on the one hand~~ to at least one ~~other~~ external network and ~~on the other hand~~ to a local access network (RLA), [[the]] said local access network (RLA) being connected to a plurality of radio base stations (BR), each ~~designed~~ radio base station being arranged to enter into communication with mobile terminals (MT), each mobile terminal (MT) being arranged for receiving or sending user cells on a virtual channel ~~identified~~ identifiable by a fixed virtual path identifier ~~fixed once and for all~~ and a virtual circuit identifier ~~which is~~ allocated to ~~it~~ said virtual path identifier at the time ~~the~~ a call is established, and ~~signalling~~ signaling cells on a virtual channel ~~identified~~ identifiable by a virtual path identifier and a fixed virtual circuit identifier ~~fixed once and for all~~, the switch (VCX) being ~~designed~~ arranged to allocate, to each user channel, a virtual path identifier and a virtual circuit identifier and, to each ~~signalling~~ signaling channel, a virtual path identifier equal to the virtual path identifier of the user ~~circuit channel~~ and a fixed virtual circuit identifier ~~fixed once~~

and for all, characterised in that the local access network (RLA) is designed being arranged to provide the transport of the user cells, and that of the signalling signaling cells in channels whose having predetermined virtual path identifiers are predetermined, and in that, when a the mobile terminal (MT) enters and the network being arranged so that in response to the mobile terminal entering into the coverage of [[the]] said network, a signalling signaling channel is formed between [[the]] said terminal (MT) and [[the]] said switch (VCX), the switch (VCX) being arranged for determining, to do this, a virtual path identifier (VPIu) which, associated with the predetermined signalling signaling virtual circuit identifier, identifies the is arranged for identifying said signalling signaling channel at the switch (VCX), and the local access network (RLA) being arranged for determining, to do this, a virtual circuit identifier (VCI-sig), which, associated with the signalling signaling virtual path identifier, identifies is arranged for identifying, at [[the]] said network (RLA), [[the]] said signalling signaling channel, and at the time a communication is established, the switch (VCX) allocates is arranged to allocate, to the user channel providing the transport of the user cells of [[the]] said communication, a virtual circuit identifier (VCI dat) which is associated, at the switch (VCX), with the virtual path identifier (VPIu) already

allocated to the ~~signalling~~ signaling channel, at the local network (RLA), with the virtual path identifier ~~provided~~ for the transport of the user cells, and, at the terminal, with the predetermined virtual path identifier.

2. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ further comprising means ~~are provided~~ for providing a one-to-one correspondence between the virtual path identifier (VPIu) assigned, at the switch (VCX), to the transport of the ~~signalling~~ signaling cells and the virtual circuit identifier (VCI sig) assigned, at the local network (RLA), to the transport of the same cells.

3. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the virtual circuit identifier (VCI sig) assigned, at the local network (RLA), to the transport of the same cells is equal to the virtual path identifier (VPIu) assigned, at the switch (VCX), to the transport of the ~~signalling~~ signaling cells.

4. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it includes~~ further including an allocation table ~~which maps for mapping~~, to each virtual path identifier VPI which the switch (VCX) is capable of allocating to a ~~signalling~~ signaling channel, a group of virtual

circuit identifiers VCI different from one VPI identifier to another, [[the]] said switch (VCX) being arranged for allocating to the user channel, at the time it is formed connected, at least one virtual circuit identifier (VCI_dat) from the group corresponding to the virtual path identifier (VPI_u) of [[the]] said user channel.

5. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it includes further~~ including an adaptation unit for effecting the translation, both in the uplink direction and in the downlink direction, ~~on the one hand of~~ (a) the virtual path identifiers respectively assigned, in the local network (RLA), to the user cells and the ~~signalling~~ signaling cells, into the corresponding predetermined identifiers in [[the]] said terminal (MT), and vice versa and, ~~on the other hand, of~~ (b) the virtual circuit identifier assigned, in the local network (RLA), to the ~~signalling~~ signaling cells, into the corresponding predetermined identifier in [[the]] said terminal (MT), and vice versa.

6. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it includes further~~ including an adaptation server (ARX) for effecting the translation, both in the uplink direction and in the downlink

direction, ~~on the one hand of~~ (a) the virtual path identifier assigned, in the switch (VCX), to the user cells and the ~~signalling~~ signaling cells, into the virtual path identifiers respectively assigned, in [[the]] said local network (RLA), to [[the]] said user and ~~signalling~~ signaling cells, and vice versa and ~~on the other hand of~~ (b) the virtual circuit identifier assigned, in the switch (VCX), to the ~~signalling~~ signaling cells, into the identifier assigned, in [[the]] said local network, to [[the]] said ~~signalling~~ signaling cells, and vice versa.

7. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein said local access network (RLA) ~~consists of~~ comprises a distribution network (RD) connected ~~on the one hand to~~ (a) a set of concentrators (CTR) to which the radio base stations (BR) are linked in order to establish or release, according to a given marking, the virtual half-connections of ~~the said~~ said base stations (BR) to [[the]] said distribution network (RD) and ~~on the other hand~~ (b) cross-connection equipment (BRIDGE) for providing connection of the distribution network (RD) to the switch (VCX), [[the]] said local access network (RLA) also having an adaption server (ARX) arranged so ~~the~~ said signaling channel passes through ~~which~~ the ~~said~~ signalling channel passes it in order to be able ~~on the one hand to~~ (a) intercept and interpret

the signalling signaling messages exchanged between the terminals (MT) and the switch (VCX) and ~~then on the other hand, (b) control~~ the marking of the half-connections in the concentrators (CTR) on the basis of the content of these signalling signaling messages, ~~to control the marking of the half-connections in the concentrators (CTR)~~.

8. (Currently amended) Access network for mobile terminals according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that it includes claim 1, further including~~ a routing table in which, to each virtual path identifier capable of being allocated by the switch to signalling each signaling channel, ~~there corresponds~~ corresponding to the number of ~~the terminal~~ terminals, [[the]] said table being arranged to be updated according to ~~the~~ arrivals and departures of terminals into and out of the coverage of the access network for mobile terminals RLAM.